

ABSTRACT

Specific nucleic acid sequences, e.g., SEQ ID NOs:1-8, for detecting *Escherichia coli*. Also disclosed is a method of detecting *Escherichia coli*. The method includes
5 providing a sample having a nucleic acid from an unknown microorganism; amplifying the nucleic acid with an upstream primer containing SEQ ID NO:1 or 3 and a downstream primer containing SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, each primer being 18-40 nucleotides in length; and detecting an amplification product. Detection of the amplification product, e.g., using SEQ ID NO:5, 6, 7, or 8 as a probe, indicates the presence of *Escherichia coli*.

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